

The summer evensong began at Loders Church on the last Sunday in April. It was a delight to all who attended - and they were many. Morning service has its own attractions, but these can never quite come up to those of evensong. For one thing, the mind is more relaxed and receptive at evensong. For another, the light of the evening sun, catching altar and arches from unfamiliar angles, gives the church a soothing, restful quality, reminiscent of days when life went at a steadier pace, and Sunday was a day of refreshment and peace. The next evensong at Loders will be at seven o'clock on Sunday, May 10th, but this time it will be the annual "farm" service of prayer for the growing crops. The form of this service is now familiar. An old horse plough assumes the position of honour in the chancel as the symbol of husbandry, and representatives of the farm workers, the Young Farmers, and the Agricultural Discussion Club, offer the prayers and read the lessons. It has been found that seven o'clock allows time for farming people from round about to get to Loders. We would like to emphasise that the service is not restricted to those who work on the land; all are welcome.

Time was when it was usual for young people to marry within their own village, for the simple reason that they rarely moved far enough from it to meet anybody else. Nowadays the tables are completely turned, and because of the prevailing mobility it is rare for the parties to a marriage to come from the same village. Of all places, the hamlet of Dottery has lately reverted to the old order of things by producing two sets of brides and grooms. On Easter Monday Mr. Adrian Scadden, of Dottery, married Miss Freda Harris, only lately moved from Dottery; on April 25th her brother, Mr. Clifford Harris, married Miss Phyllis Turner, also of Dottery. (Dottery people are obviously attentive to the dominical injunction to love one another). The weddings were further alike in that they both picked on the wettest hour of two very wet days. But this did not extinguish their exuberance, nor impair their picturesque qualities. The bells chimed as merrily as ever while the camera men operated under cover of umbrellas, and the deluge was soon forgotten in the conviviality of the wedding feast. We are pleased that Mr. and Mrs. Harris are only going to the boundary of Dottery to make their new home, which will be in Mr. Powell's cottage at Seymour Farm.

The cuckoo. Your Editor was flattered at being informed by the local statistician, Mr. Malcolm McDowall, that he first heard the cuckoo on April 5th, and saw the first swallow on March 24th, which is early. Usually intelligence of this calibre is communicated to The Times, by telephone. Mr. McDowall informs us that the dandelions are also early. This last piece of research deserves an appropriate comment, but we cannot think of one. O for the ready wit of a Mr. Punch, who, when told of the new style dining-cum-drawing room known officially as a "combination room" (as seen in the new rectory at Bridport) presumed that it was "a kind of vestry cum pantry".

Miss Kathleen Marsh, of Hembury, had Askerswell Church in all the glory of its Easter decoration for her marriage to Mr. Brian Moss, of Beaminster. She also had a warm, and almost summery, sun, which the superstitious took as an auspicious beginning for the first marriage among the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marsh. The reception was at the Askers Road House. The young couple will make their new home in Allington. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Elliott, of Yondover, celebrated their silver wedding on Apr. 7th. Their family party included Mrs. Elliott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Beale, of Allington, who hope to keep their golden wedding in October.

Askerswell was greatly shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mr. Alfred Burt, of Leggs Mead. In his usual seeming good health, he left for work at South Eggardon, at 6.45 a.m., was taken ill shortly afterwards, was brought home by his employer, Wing-Commander Newall, and died before the arrival of the doctor. The funeral was at Askerswell Church, and on the Sunday following the Rector expressed the sympathy of the congregation with the widow. Mr. Burt came of a family which has figured in Askerswell for generations. The name goes back almost to the beginning of the parish registers, and is borne on one of the most impressive tombs in the churchyard. Mr. Burt was born at Spyway, and lived all his life in the village, except for fifteen months at Chilcombe. He worked for a time at Hembury, and for eleven years at Court Farm. But he began his working life as a boy where he ended it, at South Eggardon.

The late Miss Ivy Frances Crabb, sister of Mr. Wilfred Crabb, of Yondover, was buried in the grave of her father, Mr. Arthur Crabb, in Loders churchyard. Her death had occurred at the early age of 53, after three years of incapacitation following a stroke. She had been staying with her sister at Water Street Farm, Donhead St. Mary. Church Farm, Loders, had formerly been her home.

Newcomers to Dottery. After much refurbishing, and many alterations, the old home of the Harris family in Dottery is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rendall, Mr. Rendall being a brother of our present parishioner of that honoured name. Mr. and Mrs. Rendall come from Shave Farm, and swell the number of refugees from the Marshwood Vale who have found sanctuary in our parish. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rendall are natives of Stoke Abbot. Their son Brian, who is living with them, continues to work at Shave Farm, where he was born; their married daughter has just presented them with their first grandchild. Like many before her, Mrs. Rendall finds Dottery Church cosy and inviting, and likes the service.

Captain Lumby, of Spyway, had the honour, a few weeks back, of being host to the Bishop of Salisbury on Captain Lumby's ship, the minelayer Apollo. It may be recalled that the Bishop, after his accident in the Cathedral, was invited to join the Home Fleet on their Spring exercise in the Mediterranean. The Bishop must be unique in that he has served in all three branches of the Armed Forces. His pilot's wings are a souvenir of his time in the Air Force; his friendship for our church secretary and old soldier, Mr. Adams, which his lordship never fails to renew when they meet on state occasions, survives from his service in the Cavalry; and Captain Lumby was charmed to learn very quickly from the ease with which the Bishop traded in nautical terms, that he was in no danger of forgetting what he had learnt from the Navy. In the April Diocesan Gazette we get the Bishop's warm appreciation of the Navy; from Captain Lumby we get the Navy's appreciation of the Bishop. He seems to have "gone down" as well with the ratings as with the officers, and they were genuinely sorry when the time came to say goodbye. Somebody who obviously had no knowledge of what he was talking about referred to bell-ringing in a letter to the Daily Telegraph as "a dying art". This evoked a spirited reply from the chairman of the West Dorset Ringers, Canon Cox; and the Bridport News followed it up with a front-page picture of a team of young lady ringers at Beaminster. We would have our readers know that Beaminster is not alone in having an infusion of young ringing blood. Throughout the winter a bevy of local youths have practised in Loders tower, and are shewing promise of becoming good ringers. They are Tommy Dennett, Brian Hyde and David Gill, of Loders, and Peter, Bill and Robin Hansford, of Askerswell. This will ensure that when the bells of Askerswell are rehung (which should be soon) they will not lack ringers, and young ones at that, to man them. Of course, bells practised on by learners are no more melodious than fiddles and pianos, and are apt to be painful to those within earshot. We have had no complaint from neighbours about our practices, which suggests that we have their sympathy and encouragement, for which we are grateful. In justice to the learners, it must be said that not all the clangs which emanate from the tower are of their making.

Mr. Cecil Marsh, treasurer of Dottery Church, had a satisfactory statement of accounts to present to the Easter Vestry. Receipts for the past year were £78.16.11d, expenses £47.12/-, and the credit balance £31.4.11d. Mr. Marsh had already been nominated Vicar's Warden, and the meeting unanimously re-elected Mr. Lock as people's Warden. The reading of the architect's report on the condition of the church was listened to with attention. It was noted with satisfaction that he had found the fabric in excellent condition, and it was decided that the minor repairs recommended should be done in one batch next year. In view of the impending heavy increase in the Loders quota, Dottery agreed to double its contribution this year to £20.

The repairs to Askerswell School advised by the County Architect were done during the Easter holidays, and seem very satisfactory. In the hot summer we hope we are going to have, teacher and pupils will find it hard to credit their good fortune in being able to throw open most sections of the big new west window, and the recent spring monsoon has already made fair test of its watertightness. As was feared, the removal of tiles on the roof shewed the battens beneath to be hopelessly decayed. New ones had to be fitted before the tiles could be put back. This will add a few pounds to the bill, but the V.S.A. have agreed to pay. The proposed provision of a cloakroom hangs on what is to happen about government grants. We are now hopeful of the government paying three-quarters instead of a half.

Services in May

<u>Loders:</u>	3rd. H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	10th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2: Farm Service 7.	
	17th. Whitsun. H.C. 8 & 11.50: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	24th. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	31st. H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.	
<u>Askerswell:</u>	3rd. Evensong 6.30.	10th. Matins 10.
	17th. Evensong 6.30.	24th. H.C. 10.
	31st. Matins 10.	
<u>Dottery:</u>	3rd. H.C. 9.30.	10th. Evensong 3.
	17th. Evensong 3.	24th. Evensong 6.30.
	31st. Evensong 3.	

The weather is so often, and so deservedly, the subject of unfavourable comment that now that it is behaving itself we owe it a pat on the back. The second half of May and the beginning of June produced a succession of most lovely days, on which we could revel in the beauty of the countryside where we have the good fortune to live. For once the hay was ahead of the silage. Haymaking began in May, and the scented bales dotting the fields seemed to mock the fussy machines that munched up the green grass and blew it into wheeled cages, which took it off to the clamp. Gardeners are regretting that they did not put in their potatoes earlier - in Lodgers, at any rate. Askerswell had an occasional sharp frost, but Lodgers escaped, and the Vicarage, for one, was digging excellent "earlies" on May 23rd. The burst of hot weather prompted the famous astronomer Mr. Fred Hoyle to ask in The Times, "What about the theory that atomic tests upset the weather?" To which somebody as promptly replied that we were getting decent weather because there had been no tests for several months.

Askerswell Bell Fund has received a grant of four guineas from the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers, and a donation of ten shillings from Powerstock ringers. These practical expressions of sympathy are much appreciated. The bell fund is mounting up. A fete is to be held at the school on Sept. 5th, and it is hoped that this will be the final heave that will bring the boat home. If the fete makes the usual £200, the work can be put in hand soon afterwards.

Busy Stork. In Dottery there were two births last month, a boy to Mrs. Bagg, and a boy to Mrs. Oxenbury. Mrs. Bagg is what Lady Macbeth ought to have been. This is her third boy. She would have liked a girl. Mrs. Ernest Crabb, of Uploders, was safely delivered of twin girls in Portwey Hospital, Weymouth. Their proud grandmother, Mrs. Harry Crabb, likes everybody to know what fine specimens they are, "weight, five pounds thirteen ounces each, and nineteen inches long". There was a strong element of surprise in their arrival, although the doctor says he knew it was twins all along. Mr. and Mrs. Godden brought their infant daughter Denise from North Allington to be christened at Lodgers on May 3rd. Mrs. Godden was one of the Harrises of Belshay. Her affection for her old parish is still strong.

The late Mrs. Florence Bridge, who died unexpectedly at Yondover at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Randall, was buried at Askerswell in the grave of her husband, Mr. William John Bridge, who died in 1951. The Bridges were old yeoman stock, who had farmed Loderland for years. They were also staunch members of Askerswell Church. Since her husband's death Mrs. Bridge had lived alternately with her daughters, at Monkton Wyld and Yondover. She was an old lady of great charm and dignity, and judging by the attendance at her funeral, she had not been forgotten by the older generation in Askerswell.

The Farm Service drew the usual large congregation to Lodgers Church in the octave of Rogationtide. It had been feared that the outbreak of fowl pest in the parish would keep many people away, but its most visible effect was to prevent us having the horse plough from Mr. Wilfred Crabb, whose farm was taboo. Horse ploughs are increasingly hard to come by, but Mr. Sam Fry gallantly offered his at Nallers, and Mr. Tom Foot kindly brought it over. The President of the Askerswell Young Farmers, Commander John Streetfield, offered the prayers for the growing crops, and the lessons were read by Mr. Reg Dennett, representing the farm workers; Miss Jennie Bugler, of the Askerswell Young Farmers, and Mr. Harold Saunders, Chairman of the Lodgers Discussion Club. At this service, in contrast with ordinary services, husbands felt it was not quite the thing to let their womenfolk deputise for them, and it was a pleasant change to see so many men in church.

The cottage at Yondover, for seventeen years the home of the Elliotts, who vied with the Vicarage in being the largest family in the parish - stands woefully empty. The family have moved to Mr. Derek Barnes' mill at Burton Bradstock, although Caroline remains at Court Cottages. We feel lost without the Elliotts. They were very likeable, and for some years the children were always winners of the game of who could get most in their Sunday School Lent box. Although she was never at a loss for work to do in her own home, Mrs. Elliott could not resist an S.O.S. from a neighbour in distress, and many will remember her as their good samaritan.

Askerswell has also seen the dispersion of one of its honoured families. Mr. Norman Marsh has married Miss Greta Yarde, of Beaminster, and they have taken over the old family home at Hembury Farm. Mr. Donald Marsh, while still working on the farm, is lodging at Legg's Mead; and Miss Audrey Marsh is now living and working in Bridport. We hope, that for the sake of old times, village occasions may often bring them together again.

Let it never be said that British Railways lack imagination or the will to please. When their fine new diesel engine passes through the copse at Lodgers on a spring morning it can make a call like the cuckoo, and when it goes through at night, it can imitate the screech owl. Those who feel that trains are intruders on this sylvan scene are somewhat mollified.

Thirty infants and their mothers met on the lawn at Lodgers Vicarage for a get-together

and a tea on Whit Tuesday, their annual celebration of the birthday of the Church. On Whit Monday the Sunday School went to West Bay, the older children on bicycles, and the younger ones in Mr. Frank Good's and the Vicar's chariots. The old tattered flag that has been their rallying point on beaches for years went with them, and, no doubt, did something to ensure that as many children came back as went.

Mr. Henry Johnston, of Ashe, who had been in failing health for some time, was found collapsed in his hen run, and died shortly afterwards in Bridport Hospital. He had farmed Ashe for more than thirty years. In the Great War he had been badly gassed, and was never without the effects of this. Knapps Farm, Broadwindsor, was his birthplace, and his brother still farms there. Mr. Johnston was buried in his wife's grave at Dottery. The church was not large enough to hold those who came to pay their respects. It was packed close, and then there were some outside.

Loders School. Brigadier Hammond, Chairman, presided over a meeting of school managers, which received with regret Mr. Malcolm McDowall's resignation from the post of Correspondent. Gratitude was expressed for the spirit in which he had shouldered this job in an emergency, and the new Correspondent was directed to send a letter of thanks. On the proposition of the Vicar, seconded by Mrs. S. Newbury, Sir Edward was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. McDowall. The meeting went on to consider the applications for the vacant headship, which now number sixteen. The managers will shortly be interviewing some of the applicants. Meanwhile they are paying the Rural District Council the rent of the flat in Yondover, on which the R.D.C. kindly gave them an option. Knowing how difficult it has been in the past to get teachers without being able to offer accommodation, parents are deeply appreciative of the R.D.C.'s understanding, and readiness to help.

A welcome development. The Bishop has made the County Record Office at County Hall, Dorchester, a Diocesan Record Office for the Archdeaconries of Sherborne and Dorset, empowering it to receive any parish records which an incumbent, with the consent of his church council, wishes to deposit. Documents so deposited will remain church property, and may be withdrawn at any time. Under the supervision of the County Librarian, they will be available to students, and for consultation. The records will be placed in a strongroom, which is kept at an even temperature, and fitted with steel shelving, a fire alarm, and a fumigator which deals with records that are damp. The Bishop's aim in setting up the Diocesan Record Office is to safeguard the parish records of Dorset. Many have already perished by various mischances, and more is the pity because they are irreplaceable. Both Askerswell and Loders church councils decided unanimously to deposit their oldest registers at County Hall. Askerswell registers go back to 1558, and Loders to 1604. In the new Diocesan Record Office they will be expertly cared for, and, incidentally, their removal will make space in our congested church safes. Another advantage will be that when overseas visitors come wanting to fill up a morning with the vicar, working out their family tree, he will refer them to County Hall, and there also will be able to refer the Mormons, when they send from Utah for particulars from the register to use in vicarious baptism for their dead.

The sum which the Voluntary Schools Association is paying for the recent repairs to Askerswell School amounts to over £170. The managers are obviously on to a good thing. By paying a premium of £14 per annum to the V.S.A., they are relieved of the repairs.

The Vicar wondered why there was a small group of parishioners talking with animation outside the Uploders Chapel on a recent Sunday morning when he was passing from Askerswell to Loders Church. There is no Sunday morning service at the Chapel. Apparently the excitement was because the group had captured an escaped Borstal boy. Mrs. Oscar Gale spotted him in Chapel Lane, told her suspicions to Mr. Young, her neighbour opposite, and he 'phoned our P.C. Elliott. One's sympathies are always with the hunted, and Mrs. Gale is not absolutely convinced that she did right. Well, she did, and, seeing it in print, she will believe.

Services in June

<u>Loders:</u>	7th.	H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	14th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	21st.	H.C. 8 & 11.45: Matins 11: Children 2.	
	28th.	H.C. 8: Matins 11: Children 2: Evensong 6.30.	
<u>Askerswell:</u>	7th.	Evensong 6.30.	14th. Matins 10.
	21st.	Evensong 6.30.	28th. H.C. 10.
<u>Dottery:</u>	7th.	H.C. 9.30	14th. Evensong 3.
	21st.	Evensong 3.	28th. Evensong 3.